

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 SR-04 AID-05  
CCO-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 SP-02  
OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-02 OCS-06  
OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 ANAE-00 SYE-00 FEMA-02 /108 W  
-----127996 192106Z /15

O R 192025Z OCT 79

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5005  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN PRIORITY  
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC PINS PINT ES  
SUBJ: SITREP NO 8 AS OF 1230 HOURS, 10/19/79

REF: SAN SALVAOR 5977

1. ON OCTOBER 18, TWO MILITARY AND THREE CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF  
GOVERNING REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA, HELD PRESS  
CONFERENCE (TO BE REPORTED SEPTTEL). IN RESPONSE TO  
QUESTION, JUNTA DENIED U.S. PLAYED ROLE IN COUP THAT  
RESULTED IN OVERTHROW OF ROMERO GOVERNMENT.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS ON OCTOBER 18, THREE MOLOTOV  
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COCKTAILS WERE THROWN AT NATIONAL PALACE, CAUSING SOME PANIC  
AMONG PEDESTRIANS.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS ON OCTOBER 18, BUS WAS  
BURNED ONE BLOCK FROM PEACE CORPS BUILDING. NO  
ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON PEACE CORPS BUILDING ITSELF.

4. AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS, TWO DYNAMITE BOMBS WERE SET OFF IN ELECTRIC SUBSTATION IN SAN MIGUELITO SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR AND ALSO ONE IN LA MASCOTA SECTION (WHERE MANY EMBASSY PEOPLE LIVE), INTERRUPTING ELECTRICAL SERVICE FOR FEW HOURS.

5. ON OCTOBER 17 IN SANTA ANA, CARIBE MOTORS AND DIDEA S.A. (AUTO AGENCIES) WERE BOMBED, DESTROYING TWO VEHICLES AND CAUSING U.S. \$100 THOUSAND IN DAMAGE. ON OCTOBER 17, ELEMENTS OF LEFTIST POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR) REPORTEDLY TOOK OVER SCHOOL FOR BRIEF PERIOD IN ILOPANGO SUBURB OF SAN SALVADOR. BPR ELEMENTS AT SAME TIME AND IN SAME AREA PLACED GOES-OWNED VEHICLES IN ORDER TO BLOCK TRAFFIC NEAR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BUILDING IN SANTA LUCIA SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR.

6. JUNTA ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF COL CARLOS EUGENIO VIDES CASANOVA AS NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL GUARD AND COL REINALDO LOPEZ NUILA AS NEW HEAD OF NATIONAL POLICE.

7. AT APPROXIMATELY 0730 HOURS OF OCTOBER 19 IN SAN SALVADOR, COL SIMON TADEO MARTELL, DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES AND FORMER HEAD OF MILITARY CIVIC ACTION (UNTIL LAST JULY) WAS ASSASSINATED. ACCORDING TO LATEST INFORMATION FROM DATT, EXTREME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEFTIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP) WAS RESPONSIBLE. ACCORDING TO DATT INFORMATION, RETIRED COL MARCO TULIO ANTONIO PAYES WAS ASSASSINATED DURING MORNING HOURS OF OCTOBER 19. NO GROUP HAS AS YET TAKEN CREDIT FOR ACT.

8. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CASA PRESIDENCIAL ON OCTOBER 18, CURFEW WILL IN FUTURE BE FROM MIDNIGHT TO FIVE A.M. CURFEW APPEARED TO BE WELL-OBSERVED IN SAN SALVADOR DURING NIGHT OF OCTOBER 18-19. DEVINE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SITREP, JUNTA, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL STABILITY, REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 oct 1979  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1979SANSAS06021  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D790480-0139  
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**Message ID:** 3dd31b3c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 79 SAN SALVADOR 5977  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 nov 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1118769  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SITREP NO 8 AS OF 1230 HOURS, 10/19/79  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PINS, PINT, ES  
**To:** STATE CARACAS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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